NOSTALGIA

Curtain comes down at cinema and rescuers rush to railway crash

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES WE REPORTED ON THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

The recovery operation gets under way after the Stretham diesel engine crash

Cambridge's Victoria Cinema sold - 1985

CAMBRIDGE'S Victoria Cinema has been sold to make way for a new Marks and Spencer store.

The prime market square site has housed the city's largest cinema since 1931 and underwent a major refurbishment following a fire two years ago.

The sale will leave Cambridge with two other cinemas, the ABC 1 and ABC 2 complex and the Arts Cinema.

But there are plans to change the old Kinema bingo hall in Mill Road back into a cinema.

Adkins Corner: You pay less for the best - 1961

For the convenience of those who prefer out-of-town shopping with good parking facilities, WJ Atkins has opened a self-service store by the Perne Road island in Cherryhinton Road where you will find the same quality – the best – which has made Adkins famous for English and Scottish meat, sausages, pies, cooked meats and other provisions. You pay less for the best.

Diesel engine crash at Stretham Fen - 1960

A diesel engine pulling a trainload of coal leaped from the track at Stretham Fen in the early hours and plunged down a ten-foot embankment, trapping the driver and fireman.

They were freed from the wreckage of the cab, which was crushed as it ploughed into the soft earth, and taken to hospital.

Investigators believe the crash was caused by a swaying wagon on a 60mph parcels express which hit the 45mph coal train.

Eight wagons containing Christmas parcels jumped from the rails, ripping up tracks and bringing down telephone wires.

Nearly 100 railwaymen worked to clear the main Cambridge to Ely line.

Forgotten tunnels under Peas Hill - 1959

There are a quarter of an acre of tunnels under Peas Hill which were used as air raid shelters during the war.

They were wired for electricity, lavatories were installed, and wooden seats fitted in the tunnel recesses.

Oil lamps were kept close at hand in case of emergency. Quite a number of people used the shelter during daytime raids and some slept down there when there was night bombing.

'Roadsters' used them every night to sleep. They were terribly damp when first used but, after a few days, became quite comfortable.

Gift ideas for harassed husbands - 1935

Electricity is the modern housewife's Father Christmas, bringing her so many labour-saving and home-brightening devices and Messrs Bailey, Grundy and Barrett of St Mary's Passage are specialists.

Lamp standards, wireless sets and coffee percolators are a few gift suggestions.

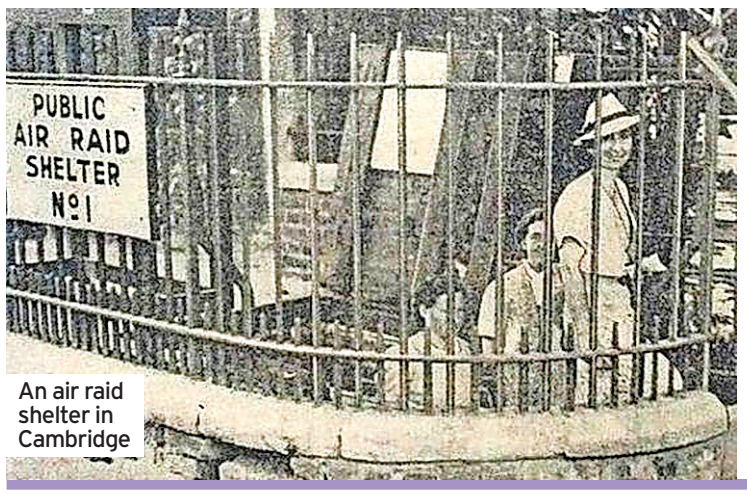
Harassed husbands and flurried fiancés will find solutions to all their gift problems at Messrs Eaden Lilley's which is packed full of things dear to the feminine heart such as evening gowns, furs and lingerie. The bargain basement has good quality stuff at reasonable prices.

If you are hard up for ideas for gifts, visit Samuels in Petty Cury.

The manager produced an Everite 'King' watch and threw it on the floor. It did not hurt it – a similar watch was dropped from the top of Big Ben and was still going when picked up.

Diamond rings are available at prices up to forty shillings and the latest for a lady's handbag is a combined flap-jack and cigarette lighter.

Canteens of cutlery, eminently suitable for wedding presents, are priced from fifteen shillings.



An air raid shelter in Cambridge

The battle of the corn merchants - 1934

Merchants at Cambridge Corn Exchange traditionally end the year by throwing about samples of their wares.

The signal for the commencement of the battle was the explosion of a cracker near the door. The 'firer' was immediately bombarded and soon covered with flour, wheat and artificial manure.

Crackers banged merrily, bags burst with marked effect and, very soon, all the dignified corn merchants were life-like imitations

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ROMAN KEMP
ARE YOU REALLY OK?
My honest feelings and life-changing experiences
'If me opening up saves just one guy or girl then it's worth it'

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